

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson  
Tim Ochnikowski, Director  
December 12, 2016

### MINUTES

St. John's Properties  
1800 N. Prospect Ave  
1:00 PM

#### ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:00pm

#### ITEM II ROLL CALL

Deb Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present: Deb Falk-Palec, Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Marcia Perkins, Kathy Zalewski,

Commissioners Absent or Excused: John Haupt, Tom Jacobs, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Meg Steimle, Sue Pickering, Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki

Staff: Mike Bonk

Guests: Tracy Harrington (MCTS), Anne Kearney (constituent), Barbara Klowman (constituent), & Amanda Stengel and Monique Hughes (American Lung Association)

#### ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September, October & November)

There was no quorum. The minutes for September, October and November will be moved to the next agenda.

#### ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

Fight for Air Climb, American Lung Association – Mission is to prevent lung disease through education, advocacy, and research. 89% of money goes to program services. Lung Cancer is the number one killer of both men & women. 1/3 of individuals have previously smoked, where 2/3 have not. Fight for Air Climb will take place on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the US Bank Center, 47 floors, and 94 flights high 1,034 steps. Goal is to raise \$725,000. Expecting 3400 participants, and 500 teams. Ages 6 and up.

#### ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Ms. Harrington reports pilot project with UWM went great, for travel assessments. Grant money (\$100,000) has been spent on accessible bus stops this year. Over 400 stops still need improvement out of over 600000 stops. All Transit Plus Vans now have tablets on board to update pickups, routes, etc. instead of by radio, which has eliminated clutter for riders, and have streamlined the process for pickups, and drop-offs. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, MCTS had 100,000 ADA boarding's, setting a new record on ADA boarding's.

#### ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

#### ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

#### ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

##### A. Recreation Update(s)

Mike Bonk provided Disability Awareness Month updates. White Cane Safety Day, and the Goodwill Fashion Show were really well received. Over 150 people attended each event. Mike also provided a more detailed update regarding his meeting with Boerner Botanical Gardens, and explained that OPD, Easter Seals and Boerner will be given a garden plot at Boerner to have a gardening class in the Summer, as well as spend a day out at Boerner with the Summer Camps doing a garden walk, as well as additional activities. The office again partnered with the Holiday Folk Fair to distribute tickets to persons with disabilities, and their families. Mr.



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Bonk also gave an additional Recreational Update regarding the RFP process. Easter Seals has been recommended for the 2017 -2019 contract, and the Office will have to present this to the Health and Human Needs Committee. Mr. Bonk also explained that Easter Seals is concerned about the Living Wage ordinance, and may need to scale back programming in order to continue programming and meet the financial needs of the Living Wage Ordinance. Mr. Bonk also indicated he has been working with all of the local sports teams and Easter Seals to get the Color Guard opportunities to present the colors at Sporting Events. The Easter Seals Color Guard has booked four events so far which include the Milwaukee Wave on 11/19/16, 1/29/16, Milwaukee Bucks 2/13/16, and Milwaukee Admirals 3/26/16.

**B. 2016 Art Award Placement (Ideas Requested)**

Commission mentioned previous ideas such as Betty Brinn Museum, Children's Hospital, Ronald and McDonald House.

**C. Chairpersons Report**

Deb Falk-Palec reports that Wauwatosa is looking to add accessible bikes, and are meeting December 13<sup>th</sup>. \$28,000 is set aside for alternate bikes in Wauwatosa. Commission noticed hand cycles will be added near Bradford beach in partnership with Milwaukee County Parks and WASA. Commission would like to see additional options including hand cycles, trikes, and side by sides.

Chair Deb Falk-Palec would like to have a separate committee formed to elect positions for the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Denise Koss and Cheri McGrath volunteer to reach out to the commissioners to see if there interested in additional elected positions.

**ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

Anne Kearney – Anne gave a brief background on consideration for Commission Membership. Anne is an attorney and a mother of 2 children with disabilities. She enjoys volunteering with the Miracle League, as well as mentoring on other boards to try to link groups of people with disabilities together.

**ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, January 9th, 2017 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission